CLAIMS

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5   1.   A method for delivering to a user's computer an interactive streaming video from a web site on the Internet comprising the following steps:

accessing said web site from said user's computer;

running a hotspot applet automatically on said user's

10   computer when said user accesses said web site;

downloading hotspot data automatically from said web page to said user's computer, said hotspot data containing instructions for vertical, horizontal and temporal coordinates for each hotspot for streaming video that is accessible from said web site;

15   streaming said streaming video from said web site to said user's computer using a video playback application;

synchronizing said hotspot data with said streaming video in accordance with said vertical, horizontal and temporal coordinates using said hotspot applet; and,

20   whereby said user may watch said streaming video and click on hotspots without the need for installing a separate plug-in to interpret hotspot data contained in a combined video and hotspot data stream.

25   2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the hotspot data pauses the video playback before performing designated instructions.

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3.   The method of Claim 2, wherein said designated instructions comprise one or more of the following: open a CLICKSHADOW, open a new frame, open a new browser window, open a new web page, open new multimedia files, open an electronic mail application, open an application.

4.   A system for using hotspot data synchronized with streaming video playback application comprising:

a streaming video, said streaming video played back in a video playback application;

a hotspot applet, said hotspot applet having the capability to decode said hotspot data and synchronize said hotspot data with said streaming video on playback;

said hotspot data exists as a separate file from said streaming video, to be synchronized with said Internet streaming video playback;

a web page containing links to said hotspot data, and said streaming video;

5.   The system of Claim 4, wherein said web page is accessed through a user's computer.

6.   The system of Claim 5, wherein said hotspot data corresponds to horizontal, vertical and time coordinates in said streaming video playback.

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7.   The system of Claim 6, wherein the hotspot data pauses the video playback before performing designated instructions.

5   8.   The system of Claim 7, wherein said designated instructions comprise one or more of the following: open a new browser window, open a new web page, open new multimedia files, open an application.

10   9.   The system of Claim 4, wherein said web page automatically runs said hotspot applet, launches said video playback application, and said hotspot applet synchronizes said hotspot data for immediate use.

15   10.   The system of Claim 4, wherein said web page is accessed through a user's television Internet access device.

11.   The system of Claim 10, wherein said hotspot data corresponds to horizontal, vertical and time coordinates in said streaming
20   video playback.

12.   The system of Claim 11, wherein the hotspot data pauses said streaming video playback before performing designated instructions.

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13.   The system of Claim 12, wherein said designated instructions

comprise one or more of the following: open a CLICKSHADOW, open a new browser window, open a new web page, open new multimedia files, open an application.

5   14.   An application for synchronizing hotspot data with streaming video giving a user an interactive video experience comprising:

a web page containing links to a streaming video, hotspot data and a hotspot applet;

a video playback application for playing back said streaming
10 video;

said hotspot applet, initiated at the time of the opening of said web page;

said hotspot applet reading said hotspot data and synchronizing said hotspot data with the streaming video playback
15 designating hotspot areas;

said hotspot areas' designation based on horizontal, vertical and temporal coordinates;

15.   A computer that receives streaming video and a separate
20 hotspot data and synchronizes said hotspot data to streaming video during said streaming video playback comprising:

said computer having a pointing device capable of issuing a click command;

said computer capable of Internet access;

25 said computer capable of receiving a web page through said Internet;

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said computer capable of receiving said streaming video through said Internet;

said computer capable of playing back said streaming video in a video playback application;

5   said computer capable of receiving said hotspot data contained in a text file through said Internet and storing said hotspot data text file in a cache;

said computer capable of receiving a hotspot applet through said Internet and running said hotspot applet;

10   said computer capable of processing said hotspot data text file on instruction from hotspot applet resulting in the synchronization of hotspot regions programmed into said hotspot data text file with said streaming video playback;

said computer capable of processing said web page, said web page containing instructions that automatically access information

15 on loading of said web page, said information comprising said hotspot applet, said streaming video, and said hotspot data;

said computer capable of identifying the number of frames per second in said streaming video;

20   said computer capable of identifying the playback time of the streaming video;

said computer capable of running said hotspot applet and accessing said hotspot data text file stored on said computer in said cache and synchronizing said hotspot data with said streaming

25 video;

said computer capable of running said hotspot applet

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receiving a user command from the pointing device, said command corresponding to temporal, horizontal and vertical information of said video playback;

said computer capable of performing programmed instructions associated with said hotspot when activated by said pointing device click command;

16. The computer of claim 15 comprising a desktop computer, a laptop computer, and a television based Internet access device.

17. The invention of claim 15, said computer capable of storing said hotspot applet in said web browser application's cache.

18. The invention of Claim 15, said computer capable of processing said hotspot data with said hotspot applet and generating a MOUSESHADOW of said streaming video playback where said hotspot is designated whenever said pointing device passes over said area with hotspot data;

19. The invention of claim 18, said computer capable of generating a CLICKSHADOW from information contained in the hotspot data text file, said CLICKSHADOW comprising: multimedia, images, video, audio, text;

20. A method of programming hotspot data for use by a hotspot applet to synchronize the hotspot data with the streaming video

playback of non-proprietary video on a non-proprietary video playback application, comprising;

deconstructing a non-proprietary streaming video file into its component frames;

5   selecting beginning frames at which to start the coding and groups the frames for coding relevant hyperlinks;

coding relevant hotspot data corresponding to appropriate targets contained in said component frames, said hotspot data corresponding to horizontal, vertical and temporal coordinates;

10   processing said selected beginning frames and said selected groups of frames to place hotspot information between the respective frames;

compiling said hotspot data into a text file readable by said hotspot applet, said hotspot applet capable of synchronizing said hotspot data with non-proprietary video playback on said non-proprietary video playback application.

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